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## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

### **CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

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1. A data processing system implemented **[business]** method for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:
  3. receiving a bid order for a service contract, wherein the bid order originates from a bidder;
  5. matching the bid order for a service contract with an ask order for a corresponding service contract, wherein **[a seller]** **an asker** owns the corresponding service contract and the ask order originates from the **[seller]** **asker**; and
  8. transferring ownership of the corresponding service contract to the bidder.
1. 2. The **[business]** method recited in claim 1 above, prior to transferring ownership of the corresponding service contract to the bidder **the method** further comprises:
  3. conveying funds from the bidder to the **[seller]** **asker**.
1. 3. The **[business]** method recited in claim 1 above, wherein matching the bid order for a service contract with an ask order for a corresponding service contract further comprises identifying service contract options for the service contract which is the subject of the bid order from the bidder.
1. 4. The **[business]** method recited in claim 1 above, wherein the bid order includes a bid price and further wherein the bid order identifies service contract options for the service order including at least one of service quantity, service grade, delivery date, and delivery point.

1       5.     The [business] method recited in claim 1 above, wherein receiving a bid order for a  
2 service contract further comprises obtaining the bid order from a bidder's authorized  
3 intermediary, wherein the bidder's authorized intermediary represents the bidder.

1       6.     The [business] method recited in claim 1 above, wherein the [seller] asker is  
2 represented by [a seller] an asker's authorized intermediary.

1       7.     The [business] method recited in claim 1 above, wherein matching the bid order for a  
2 service contract with an ask order for a corresponding service contract further comprises:

3                 identifying service contract options for the service contract which is the subject of the  
4 bid order from the bidder, wherein the service contract options for the service order includes at  
5 least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point;  
6                 searching a plurality of available service contracts for at least one corresponding  
7 service contract, wherein the corresponding service contract includes service contract options  
8 that correspond to the service contract which is the subject of the bid from the bidder;  
9                 identifying at least one corresponding service contract from the plurality of available  
10 service contract;

11                 comparing a bid price associated with the bid order with each ask price associated with  
12 each ask order for the identified at least one corresponding service contract; and

13                 identifying at least one corresponding service contract having a price match, wherein  
14 the ask price of the ask order associated with the at least one corresponding service contract is  
15 lower than or equal to the bid price associated with the bid order.

1       8.     The [business] method recited in claim 2 above, wherein conveying funds from the  
2 bidder to the [seller] asker further comprises:

3                 receiving notification of a price match between a bid order from a bidder and an ask  
4 order from [a seller] an asker;

5                 debiting a bidder's authorized intermediary; and

6                 crediting [a seller] an asker's authorized intermediary.

1       9. The [business] method recited in claim 8 above, wherein transferring ownership of the  
2 corresponding service contract to the bidder further comprises:

3           receiving notification of funds being transferred from the bidder authorized  
4 intermediary to the [seller] seller's authorized intermediary for the corresponding service  
5 contract;

6           accessing a title record for the corresponding service contract; and

7           updating the title record for the corresponding service contract to reflect the bidder as  
8 the owner of the corresponding service contract.

1       10. The [business] method recited in claim 1 above, further comprising:  
2           issuing a certificate of title to the bidder.

1       11. A data processing system implemented [business] method for implementing a service  
2 contract futures exchange, comprising:

3           \* receiving an ask order associated with [a seller] an asker's service contract, wherein  
4 the ask order originates from [a seller] an asker;

5           \* entering the ask order in a service contract database containing a plurality of ask orders,  
6 each ask order being associated with a service contract;

7           receiving a bid order for a [buyer] bidder's service contract;

8           searching the service contract database on the basis of the bid order;

9           matching the bid order to the ask order; and

10           recording an ownership change[s] of the [seller] asker's service contract.

1       12. The [business] method recited in claim 11 above, wherein the ask order identifies the  
2 [seller] asker's service contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, service  
3 delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein the bid order includes an ask  
4 price.

1       13. The [business] method recited in claim 11 above, wherein receiving an ask order  
2 associated with [a seller] an asker's service contract further comprises:

3           receiving [the seller] an asker's identity;

4 receiving an ask price from the ask order;  
5 receiving a description of the [seller] asker's service contract including at least one of  
6 service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point; and  
7 receiving a title to the [seller] asker's service contract.

1 14. The [business] method recited in claim 11 above, further comprises:  
2 transmitting an identity of [the] a last owner of record to the [seller] asker.

1 15. The [business] method recited in claim 11 above, wherein transferring ownership of  
2 the [seller] asker's service contract to the bidder further comprises:  
3 issuing a certificate of title to [a] the [buyer] bidder.

1 16. The [business] method recited in claim 11 above, wherein receiving an ask order  
2 associated with [a seller] an asker's service contract further comprises:  
3 receiving [the seller] an asker's identity;  
4 receiving a royalty [owners] owner's identity;  
5 receiving an ask price from the ask order; and  
6 receiving a description of the [seller] asker's service contract including a royalty fee.

1 17. The [business] method recited in claim 11 above, prior to recording the ownership  
2 change of the [seller] asker's service contract, method further comprises:  
3 conveying funds for the [seller] asker's service contract.

1 18. The [business] method recited in claim 17 above, conveying funds for the [seller]  
2 asker's service contract further comprises:  
3 transferring funds from the [buyer] bidder to the [seller] asker; and  
4 escrowing funds for a royalty owner based on a royalty fee.

1 19. The [business] method recited in claim 11, further comprises:  
2 transmitting an identity of a last title holder of record to the [seller] asker.

1       20. The [business] method recited in claim 11, further comprises:  
2                   issuing a certificate of title to the [buyer] bidder; and  
3                   transmitting an identity of the [buyer] bidder to the [seller] asker.

1       21. A data processing system implemented [business] method for implementing a service  
2                   contract futures exchange, comprising:  
3                    receiving an ask order for [a seller] an asker's service contract;  
4                    receiving a bid order for a [buyer] bidder's service contract;  
5                    matching the bid order with the ask order;  
6                    A      \* in response to matching the bid order with the ask order, determining whether to  
7                    process the [seller] asker's service contract is in a cash market or a futures market; and  
8                    processing the [seller] asker's service contract based on whether the [seller] asker's  
9                    service contract is processed in a cash market or a futures market.

1       22. The [business] method recited in claim 21, wherein the [seller] asker's service contract  
2                   is a transferable contract to provide a service relating to at least one of construction;  
3                   transportation and warehousing; postal services; information; real estate and rental and leasing;  
4                   financial and insurance; professional, scientific, and technical services; management of  
5                   companies and enterprises; administrative and support and waste management and remediation  
6                   services; educational services; health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment, and  
7                   recreation; accommodation and food services; public administration; and other services.

1       23. The [business] method recited in claim 21, in response to the determination of whether  
2                   to process the [seller] asker's service contract in a cash market, processing the [seller] asker's  
3                   service contract further comprises:  
4                   transferring funds from the [buyer] bidder to the [seller] asker; and  
5                   transferring [tracking] ownership of the [seller] asker's service contract to the [buyer]  
6                   bidder following transferring funds from the [buyer] bidder to the [seller] asker.

1       24. The [business] method recited in claim 21, in response to the determination of whether  
2 to process the [seller] asker's service contract in a futures market, processing the [seller]  
3 asker's service contract further comprises:

4               calculating mark to market time, wherein all futures service contracts are processed at  
5 mark to market time;

6               determining whether present time is equal to mark to market time;  
7               on the basis of present time being equal to mark to market time, transferring funds from  
8 the [buyer] bidder to the [seller] asker; and

9               transferring ownership of the [seller] asker's service contract to the [buyer] bidder in  
10 response to transferring funds from the [buyer] bidder to the [seller] asker.

1       25. The [business] method recited in claim 21, wherein determining whether to process the  
2 [seller] asker's service contract is in a cash market or a futures market further comprises:

3               getting a ripe time value for the [seller] asker's service contract, wherein the ripe time  
4 value is an amount of time prior to service delivery time and date that the [seller] asker's  
5 service contract must be processed in a cash market;

6               determining a performance time value, wherein the performance time value is the  
7 amount of time from the present time until the service delivery time and date of the [seller]  
8 asker's service contract;

9               compar[e]ing the performance time value with the ripe time value for the [seller]  
10 asker's contract, wherein the [seller] asker's service contract is processed in a futures market  
11 only if the performance time value is greater than the ripe time value, otherwise the [seller]  
12 asker's contract is processed in a cash market.

1       26. A data processing system implemented [business] method for implementing a service  
2 contract futures exchange, comprising:

3               receiving an ask order from [a seller] an asker for [a seller] an asker's service  
4 contract;

5               receiving a bid order from a [buyer] bidder for a [buyer] bidder's contract;  
6               matching the bid order with the ask order;

transferring funds from the [buyer] **bidder** to the [seller] **asker** in response to matching the bid order with the ask order; and

\* transferring ownership of the [seller] **asker**'s service contract to the [buyer] **bidder** in response to transferring funds from the [buyer] **bidder** to the [seller] **asker**.

27. The [business] method recited in claim 26 above, wherein the [buyer] bidder is the first [buyer] bidder, the bid order is the first bid order, the ask order is the first ask order, the [buyer] bidder's contract is a first [buyer] bidder's contract and the [business] method further comprises:

receiving a second ask order from the [buyer] bidder for the [seller] asker's service contract;

receiving a second bid order from a second [buyer] bidder for a second [buyer] bidder's contract;

matching the second bid order with the second ask order;

transferring funds from the second [buyer] **bidder** to the first [buyer] **bidder** in response to matching the second bid order with the second ask order; and

transferring ownership of the **[seller]** asker's service contract to the second **[buyer]** bidder in response to transferring funds from the second **[buyer]** bidder to the **[buyer]** bidder.

28. The [business] method recited in claim 26 above, wherein receiving an ask order and receiving a bid order further comprise electronically telecommunicating the respective bid and ask orders.

29. The [business] method recited in claim 26 above, wherein receiving an ask order and receiving a bid order further comprise orally communicating the respective bid and ask orders.

30. The **[business]** method recited in claim 26 above, wherein matching the bid order with the ask order is performed orally using open outcry oral bargaining.

1       31. The [business] method recited in claim 26 above, wherein matching the bid order to the  
2 ask order is performed electronically.

1       32. The [business] method recited in claim 26 above, wherein receiving an ask order from  
2 [a seller] an asker is performed electronically by [a seller] an asker's authorized intermediary  
3 and further wherein matching the bid order with the ask order is performed orally using open  
4 outcry oral bargaining.

1       33. A data processing system implemented [business] method for implementing a service  
2 contract futures exchange, comprising:

3               transmitting an ask order for [a seller] an asker's service contract, wherein the ask  
4 order identifies [a seller] an asker's service contract by at least one of service quantity, service  
5 grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein the ask order  
6 includes an ask price;

7               receiving an indication that a bid price associated with a bid order from a [buyer]  
8 bidder has matched the ask price; and

9               receiving sales funds for ownership of the [seller] asker's service contract, wherein the  
10 sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price.

1       34. The [business] method recited in claim 33 above, wherein the [seller] asker's service  
2 contract is a transferable instrument promising to provide a service at a future service delivery  
3 date and remote service delivery point.

1       35. The [business] method recited in claim 33 above, further comprising:

2               escrowed royalty funds for a royalty owner, wherein the royalty funds are equal in  
3 amount to a royalty fee.

1       36. The [business] method recited in claim 34 above, further comprising:  
2               receiving information as to an identity of the [buyer] bidder;  
3               receiving a demand for service from a demander;  
4               identifying the demander;

5 confirming that the demander's identity matches the identity of the [buyer] **bidder**; and  
6 performing a service for the demander.

1 37. The [business] method recited in claim 34 above, further comprising:  
2 receiving notification of an issuance of [a seller] **an asker**'s service contract certificate  
3 of title, wherein the [seller] **asker**'s service contract certificate of title is one of a transferable  
4 instrument and a nontransferable instrument;  
5 receiving a demand for service from a demander, wherein the demander bears a  
6 certificate of title;  
7 authenticating the certificate of title as the [seller] **asker**'s service contract certificate of  
8 title; and  
9 performing a service for the demander.

1 38. The [business] method recited in claim 34 above, further comprising:  
2 generating a second bid order for seller's service contract owned by the [buyer] **bidder**,  
3 wherein the second bid order includes a second bid price;  
4 receiving a notification that the second bid order matched an ask order for the [seller]  
5 **asker**'s service contract; and  
6 making available second sales funds for ownership of the [seller] **asker**'s service  
7 contract, wherein the second sales funds are equal in amount to a second ask price.

1 \* 39. A data processing system implemented [business] method for implementing a service  
2 contract futures exchange, comprising:  
3     contracting for a secondary service from a secondary service provider;  
4     generating an ask order, wherein the ask order is for [a seller] **an asker**'s service  
5     contract and further wherein the ask order identifies [a seller] **an asker**'s service contract by at  
6     least one of service quantity, service grade, **service** delivery date, and **service** delivery point  
7     and the ask order includes an ask price and a royalty fee amount;  
8     receiving an indication that a bid price associated with a bid order from a [buyer]  
9     **bidder** has matched the ask price; and

10 receiving sales funds for ownership of the [seller] asker's service contract, wherein the  
11 sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price less the royalty fee.

1 ✕ (40) A data processing system implemented [business] method for implementing a service  
2 contract futures exchange, comprising:

3 transmitting a bid order for a [buyer] bidder's service contract, wherein the bid order  
4 identifies a [buyer] bidder's service contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade,  
5 service delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein the bid order includes a  
6 bid price;

7 receiving an indication that an ask price associated with an ask order for [a seller] an  
8 asker's service contract from [a seller] an asker has matched the bid price; and

9 (A) transferring funds for ownership of the [seller] asker's service contract, wherein the  
10 funds are equal in amount to the bid price.

1 41. The [business] method recited in claim 40 above, further comprising:

2 receiving an indication of ownership of the [seller] asker's service contract.

1 42. The [business] method recited in claim 40 above, further comprising:

2 receiving a certificate of title for the [seller] asker's service contract, wherein the  
3 [seller] asker's service contract certificate of title is one of a transferable instrument entitling a  
4 bearer of the certificate of title to the [seller] asker's service upon demand.

1 ✕ (43) A data processing system implemented [business] method for implementing a service  
2 contract futures exchange, comprising:

3 transmitting a conjunctive bid order, wherein the conjunctive bid order identifies at  
4 least two dissimilar service contracts to form the conjunctive service and further each service  
5 contract identifies at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and  
6 service delivery point and further wherein the conjunctive bid order includes a conjunctive bid  
7 price comprising a separate bid price for each service contract;

8 receiving an indication that a first ask price associated with a first ask order for a first  
9 seller's service contract from a first seller has matched one bid price from the conjunctive  
10 order;

11 receiving an indication that a last ask price associated with a last ask order for a last  
12 seller's service contract from a last seller has matched a last bid price from the conjunctive  
13 order, thereby completely matching the conjunctive bid order; and

14 transferring funds for ownership of the first seller's service contract and the last seller's  
15 service contract, wherein the funds are equal in amount to the conjunctive bid price.

1 44. A data processing system implemented [business] method for implementing a service  
2 contract futures exchange, comprising:

3 receiving at least one bid order and at least one ask order for a service contract, wherein  
4 the service contract is a transferable contract to provide a service relating to at least one of  
5 construction; transportation and warehousing; postal services; information; real estate and  
6 rental and leasing; financial and insurance; professional, scientific, and technical services;  
7 management of companies and enterprises; administrative and support and waste management  
8 and remediation services; educational services; health care and social assistance; arts,  
9 entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; public administration; and  
10 other services;

11 matching the at least one bid order to the at least one ask order for a service contract,  
12 wherein a basis for matching is price of the service contract.

1 45. A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange,  
2 comprising:

3 receiving means for receiving a bid order for a service contract, wherein the bid order  
4 originates from a bidder;

5 matching means for matching the bid order for a service contract with an ask order for  
6 a corresponding service contract, wherein [a seller] an asker owns the corresponding service  
7 contract and the ask order originates from the [seller] asker; and

8 transferring means for transferring ownership of the corresponding service contract to  
9 the bidder.

1 46. The system recited in claim 45 above, further comprises:  
2 conveying means for conveying funds from the bidder to the [seller] asker.

1 48. The system recited in claim 45 above, wherein the bid order includes a bid price and  
2 further wherein the bid order identifies service contract options for the service order including  
3 at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point.

1 50. The system recited in claim 45 above, wherein the [seller] asker is represented by [a  
2 seller] an asker's authorized intermediary.

1 51. The system recited in claim 45 above, wherein the matching means for matching the  
2 bid order for a service contract with an ask order for a corresponding service contract further  
3 comprises:

4 identifying means for identifying service contract options for the service contract which  
5 is the subject of the bid order from the bidder, wherein the service contract options for the  
6 service order includes at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and  
7 service delivery point;

8 searching means for searching a plurality of available service contracts for at least one  
9 corresponding service contract, wherein the corresponding service contract includes service  
10 contract options that correspond to the service contract which is the subject of the bid from the  
11 bidder;

12 identifying means for identifying at least one corresponding service contract from the  
13 plurality of available service contract;

14 comparing means for comparing a bid price associated with the bid order with each ask  
15 price associated with each ask order for the identified at least one corresponding service  
16 contract; and

17 identifying means for identifying at least one corresponding service contract having a  
18 price match, wherein the ask price of the ask order associated with the at least one

19 corresponding service contract is lower than or equal to the bid price associated with the bid  
20 order.

1 52. The system recited in claim 46 above, wherein conveying funds from the bidder to the  
2 [seller] asker further comprises:

3 receiving means for receiving notification of a price match between a bid order from a  
4 bidder and an ask order from [a seller] an asker;

5 debiting means for debiting a bidder's authorized intermediary; and

6 crediting means for crediting [a seller] an asker's authorized intermediary.

1 3 53. The system recited in claim 52 above, wherein the transferring means for transferring  
2 ① ownership of the corresponding service contract to the bidder further comprises:

3 receiving means for receiving notification of funds being transferred from the bidder's  
4 authorized intermediary to the [seller] seller's authorized intermediary for the  
5 corresponding service contract;

6 accessing means for accessing a title record for the corresponding service contract; and

7 updating means for updating the title record for the corresponding service contract to  
8 reflect the bidder as the owner of the corresponding service contract.

1 ② 55. A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange,  
2 comprising:

3 receiving means for receiving an ask order associated with [a seller] an asker's service  
4 contract, wherein the ask order originates from [a seller] an asker;

5 ③ entering means for entering the ask order in a service contract database containing a  
6 plurality of ask orders, each ask order associated with a service contract;

7 receiving means for receiving a bid order for a [buyer] bidder's service contract;

8 searching means for searching the service contract database on the basis of the bid  
9 order;

10 matching means for matching the bid order to the ask order; and

11 recording means for recording an ownership change[s] of the [seller] asker's service  
12 contract.

1       56. The system recited in claim 55 above, wherein the ask order identifies the **[seller]**  
2       **asker**'s service contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, **service** delivery date,  
3       and **service** delivery point and further wherein the bid order includes an ask price.

1       57. The system recited in claim 55 above, wherein receiving an ask order associated with  
2       **[a seller]** **an asker**'s service contract further comprises:

3           receiving means for receiving **[the]** **[a seller]** **an asker**'s identity;

4           receiving means for receiving an ask price from the ask order;

5           receiving means for receiving a description of the **[seller]** **asker**'s service contract  
6       including at least one of service quantity, service grade, **service** delivery date, and **service**  
7       delivery point; and

8       U       receiving means for receiving a title to the **[seller]** **asker**'s service contract.

1       58. The system recited in claim 55 above, further comprises:

2           transmitting means for transmitting an identity of **[the]a** last owner of record to the  
3       **[seller]** **asker**.

1       59. The system recited in claim 55 above, wherein transferring ownership of the **[seller]**  
2       **asker**'s service contract to the bidder further comprises:

3           issuing means for issuing a certificate of title to **[a]** **the** **[buyer]** **bidder**.

1       60. The system recited in claim 55 above, wherein receiving an ask order associated with  
2       **[a seller]** **an asker**'s service contract further comprises:

3           receiving means for receiving **[the]** **[a seller]** **an asker**'s identity;

4           receiving means for receiving a royalty **[owners]** **owner**'s identity;

5           receiving means for receiving an ask price from the ask order; and

6           receiving means for receiving a description of the **[seller]** **asker**'s service contract  
7       including a royalty fee.

1       61. The system recited in claim 55 above, prior to recording the ownership change of the  
2       [seller] asker's service contract, method further comprises:  
3               conveying means for conveying funds for the [seller] asker's service contract.

1       62. The system recited in claim 61 above, the conveying means for conveying funds for the  
2       [seller] asker's service contract further comprises:  
3               transferring means for transferring funds from the [buyer] bidder to the [seller] asker;  
4       and  
5               escrow means for escrowing funds for a royalty owner based on a royalty fee.

1       63. The system recited in claim 55, further comprises:  
2               transmitting means for transmitting an identity of a last title holder of record to the  
3       [seller] asker.

1       64. The system recited in claim 55, further comprises:  
2               issuing means for issuing a certificate of title to the [buyer] bidder; and  
3               transmitting means for transmitting an identity of the [buyer] bidder to the [seller]  
4       asker.

1       65. A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange,  
2       comprising:  
3               receiving means for receiving an ask order for [a seller] an asker's service contract;  
4               receiving means for receiving a bid order for a [buyer] bidder's service contract;  
5               matching means for matching the bid order with the ask order;  
6               determining means for determining whether to process the [seller] asker's service  
7       contract is in a cash market or a futures market in response to matching the bid order with the  
8       ask order; and  
9               processing means for processing the [seller] asker's service contract based on whether  
10      the [seller] asker's service contract is processed in a cash market or a futures market.

1       66. The system recited in claim 65, wherein the [seller] asker's service contract is a  
2 transferable contract to provide a service relating to at least one of construction; transportation  
3 and warehousing; postal services; information; real estate and rental and leasing; financial and  
4 insurance; professional, scientific, and technical services; management of companies and  
5 enterprises; administrative and support and waste management and remediation services;  
6 educational services; health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation;  
7 accommodation and food services; public administration; and other services.

1       67. The system recited in claim 65, the processing means for processing the [seller] asker's  
2 service contract further comprises:

3                 transferring means for transferring funds from the [buyer] bidder to the [seller] asker;  
4 and  
5                 transferring means for transferring [tracking] ownership of the [seller] asker's service  
6 contract to the [buyer] bidder following transferring funds from the [buyer] bidder to the  
7 [seller] asker.

1       68. The system recited in claim 65, the processing means for processing the [seller] asker's  
2 service contract further comprises:

3                 calculating means for calculating mark to market time, wherein all futures service  
4 contracts are processed at mark to market time;

5                 determining whether present time is equal to mark to market time;

6                 transferring means for transferring funds from the [buyer] bidder to the [seller] asker  
7 on the basis of present time being equal to mark to market time; and

8                 transferring means for transferring ownership of the [seller] asker's service contract to  
9 the [buyer] bidder in response to transferring funds from the [buyer] bidder to the [seller]  
10 asker.

1       69. The system recited in claim 65, wherein the determining means for determining  
2 whether to process the [seller] asker's service contract is in a cash market or a futures market  
3 further comprises:

4 getting means for getting a ripe time value for the [seller] asker's service contract,  
5 wherein the ripe time value is an amount of time prior to service delivery and date time that  
6 the [seller] asker's service contract must be processed in a cash market;

7 determining means for determining a performance time value, wherein the performance  
8 time value is the amount of time from the present time until service delivery time and date of  
9 the [seller] asker's service contract;

10 comparing means for comparing the performance time value with the ripe time value  
11 for the [seller] asker's contract, wherein the [seller] asker's service contract is processed in a  
12 futures market only if the performance time value is greater than the ripe time value, otherwise  
13 the [seller] asker's contract is processed in a cash market.

1 70. A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange,  
2 comprising:

3 receiving means for receiving an ask order from [a seller] an asker for [a seller] an  
4 asker's service contract;

5 receiving means for receiving a bid order from a [buyer] bidder for a [buyer] bidder's  
6 contract;

7 matching means for matching the bid order with the ask order;

8 transferring means for transferring funds from the [buyer] bidder to the [seller] asker  
9 in response to matching the bid order with the ask order; and

10 transferring means for transferring ownership of the [seller] asker's service contract to  
11 the [buyer] bidder in response to transferring funds from the [buyer] bidder to the [seller]  
12 asker.

1 71. The system recited in claim 70 above, wherein the [buyer] bidder is the first [buyer]  
2 bidder, the bid order is the first bid order, the ask order is the first ask order, the [buyer]  
3 bidder's contract is a first [buyer] bidder's contract and the system further comprises:

4 receiving means for receiving a second ask order from the [buyer] bidder for the  
5 [seller] asker's service contract;

6 receiving means for receiving a second bid order from a second [buyer] bidder for a  
7 second [buyer] bidder's contract;

8 matching means for matching the second bid order with the second ask order;  
9 transferring means for transferring funds from the second **[buyer] bidder** to the first  
10 **[buyer] bidder** in response to matching the second bid order with the second ask order; and  
11 transferring means for transferring ownership of the **[seller] asker**'s service contract to  
12 the second **[buyer] bidder** in response to transferring funds from the second **[buyer] bidder** to  
13 the **[buyer] bidder**.

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1 76. The system recited in claim 70 above, wherein receiving an ask order from **[a seller]**  
2 **an asker** is performed electronically by **[a seller] an asker**'s authorized intermediary and  
3 further wherein matching the bid order with the ask order is performed orally using open  
4 outcry oral bargaining.

1 (77.) A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange,  
2 comprising:

3 transmitting means for transmitting an ask order for **[a seller] an asker**'s service  
4 contract, wherein the ask order identifies **[a seller] an asker**'s service contract by at least one  
5 of service quantity, service grade, **service** delivery date, and **service** delivery point and further  
6 wherein the ask order includes an ask price;

7 receiving means for receiving an indication that a bid price associated with a bid order  
8 from a **[buyer] bidder** has matched the ask price; and

9 receiving means for receiving sales funds for ownership of the **[seller] asker**'s service  
10 contract, wherein the sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price.

1 78. The system recited in claim 77 above, wherein the **[seller] asker**'s service contract is a  
2 transferable instrument promising to provide a service at a future **service** delivery date and  
3 remote **service** delivery point.

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1 80. The system recited in claim 77 above, further comprising:  
2 receiving means for receiving information as to an identity of the **[buyer] bidder**;  
3 receiving means for receiving a demand for service from a demander;  
4 identifying means for identifying the demander;

5 confirming means for confirming that the demander's identity matches the identity of  
6 the [buyer] bidder; and  
7 performing means for performing a service for the demander.

1 81. The system recited in claim 77 above, further comprising:  
2 receiving means for receiving notification of an issuance of [a seller] an asker's  
3 service contract certificate of title, wherein the [seller] asker's service contract certificate of  
4 title is one of a transferable instrument and a nontransferable instrument;  
5 receiving means for receiving a demand for service from a demander, wherein the  
6 demander bears a certificate of title;  
7 authenticating means for authenticating the certificate of title as the [seller] asker's  
8 service contract certificate of title; and  
9 performing means for performing a service for the demander.

1 82. The system recited in claim 77 above, further comprising:  
2 generating means for generating a second bid order for seller's service contract owned  
3 by the [buyer] bidder, wherein the second bid order includes a second bid price;  
4 receiving means for receiving a notification that the second bid order matched an ask  
5 order for the [seller] asker's service contract; and  
6 making means for making available second sales funds for ownership of the [seller]  
7 asker's service contract, wherein the second sales funds are equal in amount to a second ask  
8 price.

1 (83) A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange,  
2 comprising:  
3 contracting means for contracting for a secondary service from a secondary service  
4 provider;  
5 generating means for generating an ask order, wherein the ask order is for [a seller] an  
6 asker's service contract and further wherein the ask order identifies [a seller] an asker's  
7 service contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and  
8 service delivery point and the ask order includes an ask price and a royalty fee amount;

9 receiving means for receiving an indication that a bid price associated with a bid order  
10 from a [buyer] bidder has matched the ask price; and

11 receiving means for receiving sales funds for ownership of the [seller] asker's service  
12 contract, wherein the sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price less the royalty fee.

1 84. A data processing system implemented system for implementing a service contract  
2 futures exchange, comprising:

3 transmitting means for transmitting a bid order for a [buyer] bidder's service contract,  
4 wherein the bid order identifies a [buyer] bidder's service contract by at least one of service  
5 quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein  
6 the bid order includes a bid price;

7  receiving means for receiving an indication that an ask price associated with an ask  
8 order for [a seller] an asker's service contract from [a seller] an asker has matched the bid  
9 price; and

10 transferring means for transferring funds for ownership of the [seller] asker's service  
11 contract, wherein the funds are equal in amount to the bid price.

1 85. The system recited in claim 84 above, further comprising:

2 receiving means for receiving an indication of ownership of the [seller] asker's service  
3 contract.

1 86. The system recited in claim 84 above, further comprising:

2 receiving means for receiving a certificate of title for the [seller] asker's service  
3 contract, wherein the [seller] asker's service contract certificate of title is one of a transferable  
4 instrument entitling a bearer of the certificate of title to the [seller] asker's service upon  
5 demand.

1 87.  A data processing system for implementing a service contract futures exchange,  
2 comprising:

3 transmitting means for transmitting a conjunctive bid order, wherein the conjunctive  
4 bid order identifies at least two dissimilar service contracts to form the conjunctive service and

5 further each service contract identifies at least one of service quantity, service grade, service  
6 delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein the conjunctive bid order includes  
7 a conjunctive bid price comprising a separate bid price for each service contract;

8 receiving means for receiving an indication that a first ask price associated with a first  
9 ask order for a first seller's service contract from a first seller has matched one bid price from  
10 the conjunctive order;

11 *A* receiving means for receiving an indication that a last ask price associated with a last  
12 ask order for a last seller's service contract from a last seller has matched a last bid price from  
13 the conjunctive order, thereby completely matching the conjunctive bid order; and

14 transferring means for transferring funds for ownership of the first seller's service  
15 contract and the last seller's service contract, wherein the funds are equal in amount to the  
16 conjunctive bid price.

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1 100. A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a  
2 computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:  
3 receiving instructions for receiving a bid order for a service contract, wherein the bid  
4 order originates from a bidder;

5 matching instructions for matching the bid order for a service contract with an ask  
6 order for a corresponding service contract, wherein [a seller] an asker owns the corresponding  
7 service contract and the ask order originates from the [seller] asker; and

8 *A* transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the corresponding service  
9 contract to the bidder.

1 101. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 100 above, prior to the transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the  
3 corresponding service contract to the bidder the computer program product further  
4 comprises:

5 conveying instructions for conveying funds from the bidder to the [seller] asker.

1 102. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 100 above, wherein the matching instructions for matching the bid order for a service

3 contract with an ask order for a corresponding service contract further comprises identifying  
4 service contract options for the service contract which is the subject of the bid order from the  
5 bidder.

1 A 103. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 100 above, wherein the bid order includes a bid price and further wherein the bid order  
3 identifies service contract options for the service order including at least one of service  
4 quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point.

1 105. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 100 above, wherein the [seller] asker is represented by [a seller] an asker's authorized  
3 intermediary.

1 106. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 100 above, wherein the matching instructions for matching the bid order for a service  
3 contract with an ask order for a corresponding service contract further comprises:

4 A 2 identifying instructions for identifying service contract options for the service contract  
5 which is the subject of the bid order from the bidder, wherein the service contract options for  
6 the service order includes at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date,  
7 and service delivery point;

8 searching instructions for searching a plurality of available service contracts for at least  
9 one corresponding service contract, wherein the corresponding service contract includes  
10 service contract options that correspond to the service contract which is the subject of the bid  
11 from the bidder;

12 identifying instructions for identifying at least one corresponding service contract from  
13 the plurality of available service contract;

14 comparing instructions for comparing a bid price associated with the bid order with  
15 each ask price associated with each ask order for the identified at least one corresponding  
16 service contract; and

17 identifying instructions for identifying at least one corresponding service contract  
18 having a price match, wherein the ask price of the ask order associated with the at least one

19 corresponding service contract is lower than or equal to the bid price associated with the bid  
20 order.

1 107. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 100 above, wherein the conveying instructions for conveying funds from the bidder to  
3 the **[seller] asker** further comprises:

4 receiving instructions for receiving notification of a price match between a bid order  
5 from a bidder and an ask order from **[a seller] an asker**;  
6 debiting instructions for debiting a bidder's authorized intermediary; and  
7 crediting instructions for crediting **[a seller] an asker**'s authorized intermediary.

1 108. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 107 above, wherein the transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the  
3 corresponding service contract to the bidder further comprises:

4 receiving instructions for receiving notification of funds being transferred from the  
5 bidder's **authorized intermediary** to the **[seller] seller's authorized intermediary** for the  
6 corresponding service contract;

7 accessing instructions for accessing a title record for the corresponding service  
8 contract; and

9 updating instructions for updating the title record for the corresponding service contract  
10 to reflect the bidder as the owner of the corresponding service contract.

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1 110. A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a  
2 computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

3 receiving instructions for receiving an ask order associated with **[a seller] an asker**'s  
4 service contract, wherein the ask order originates from **[a seller] an asker**;

5 entering instructions for entering the ask order in a service contract database containing  
6 a plurality of ask orders, each ask order associated with a service contract;

7 receiving instructions for receiving a bid order for a **[buyer] bidder**'s service contract;

8 searching instructions for searching the service contract database on the basis of the bid  
9 order;

10 matching instructions for matching the bid order to the ask order; and  
11 recording instructions for recording an ownership change[s] of the [seller] asker's  
12 service contract.

1 111. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 110 above, wherein the ask order identifies the [seller] asker's service contract by at  
3 least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point  
4 and further wherein the bid order includes an ask price.

1 112. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 110 above, wherein the receiving instructions for receiving an ask order associated with  
3 [a seller] an asker's service contract further comprises:

4 A receiving instructions for receiving [the] [a seller] an asker's identity;  
5 receiving instructions for receiving an ask price from the ask order;  
6 receiving instructions for receiving a description of the [seller] asker's service contract  
7 including at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service  
8 delivery point; and  
9 receiving instructions for receiving a title to the [seller] asker's service contract.

1 113. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 110 above, further comprises:  
3 transmitting instructions for transmitting an identity of [the] a last owner of record to  
4 the [seller] asker.

1 114. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 110 above, wherein the transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the [seller]  
3 asker's service contract to the bidder further comprises:  
4 issuing instructions for issuing a certificate of title to [a] the [buyer] bidder.

1 115. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 110 above, wherein the receiving instructions for receiving an ask order associated with  
3 [a seller] an asker's service contract further comprises:

4 receiving instructions for receiving [the] [a seller] an asker's identity;  
5 receiving instructions for receiving a royalty [owner] owner's identity;  
6 receiving instructions for receiving an ask price from the ask order; and  
7 receiving instructions for receiving a description of the [seller] asker's service contract  
8 including a royalty fee.

1 116. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 110 above, prior to the instructions for recording an ownership change of the [seller]  
3 asker's service contract, method further comprises:

4 (a) conveying instructions for conveying funds for the [seller] asker's service contract.

1 117. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 116 above, the conveying instructions for conveying funds for the [seller] asker's  
3 service contract further comprises:

4 transferring instructions for transferring funds from the [buyer] bidder to the [seller]  
5 asker; and

6 escrow instructions for escrowing funds for a royalty owner based on a royalty fee.

1 118. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 110, further comprises:

3 transmitting instructions for transmitting an identity of a last titleholder of record to the  
4 [seller] asker.

1 119. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 110, further comprises:

3 issuing instructions for issuing a certificate of title to the [buyer] bidder; and  
4 transmitting instructions for transmitting an identity of the [buyer] bidder to the  
5 [seller] asker.

1 120. A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a  
2 computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

3 receiving instructions for receiving an ask order for **[a seller] an asker**'s service  
4 contract;

5 receiving instructions for receiving a bid order for a **[buyer] bidder**'s service contract;  
6 matching instructions for matching the bid order with the ask order;

7 determining instructions for determining whether to process the **[seller] asker**'s service  
8 contract is in a cash market or a futures market, in response to matching the bid order with the  
9 ask order; and

10 processing instructions for processing the **[seller] asker**'s service contract based on  
11 whether the **[seller] asker**'s service contract is processed in a cash market or a futures market.

1 121. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 120, wherein the **[seller] asker**'s service contract is a transferable contract to provide a  
3 service relating to at least one of construction; transportation and warehousing; postal services;  
4 information; real estate and rental and leasing; financial and insurance; professional, scientific,  
5 and technical services; management of companies and enterprises; administrative and support  
6 and waste management and remediation services; educational services; health care and social  
7 assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation; accommodation and food services; public  
8 administration; and other services.

1 122. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 120, processing instructions for processing the **[seller] asker**'s service contract, in  
3 response to the determination to process the **[seller] asker**'s service contract in a cash market,  
4 further comprises:

5 transferring instructions for transferring funds from the **[buyer] bidder** to the **[seller] asker**;  
6 and

7 transferring instructions for transferring **[tracking]** ownership of the **[seller] asker**'s  
8 service contract to the **[buyer] bidder** following transferring funds from the **[buyer] bidder** to  
9 the **[seller] asker**.

1 123. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 120, processing instructions for processing the [seller] asker's service contract in  
3 response to the determination to process the [seller] asker's service contract in a futures  
4 market, further comprises:

5 calculating instructions for calculating mark to market time, wherein all futures service  
6 contracts are processed at mark to market time;

7 determining instructions for determining whether present time is equal to mark to  
8 market time;

9 transferring instructions for transferring funds from the [buyer] bidder to the [seller]  
10 asker on the basis of present time being equal to mark to market time, ; and

11 *A* transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the [seller] asker's service  
12 contract to the [buyer] bidder in response to transferring funds from the [buyer] bidder to the  
13 [seller] asker.

1 124. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 120, wherein the determining instructions for determining whether to process the [seller]  
3 asker's service contract is in a cash market or a futures market further comprises:

4 getting instructions for getting a ripe time value for the [seller] asker's service contract,  
5 wherein the ripe time value is an amount of time prior to service delivery time and date that  
6 the [seller] asker's service contract must be processed in a cash market;

7 determining instructions for determining a performance time value, wherein the  
8 performance time value is the amount of time from the present time until service delivery time  
9 and date of the [seller] asker's service contract;

10 comparing instructions for comparing the performance time value with the ripe time  
11 value for the [seller] asker's contract, wherein the [seller] asker's service contract is processed  
12 in a futures market only if the performance time value is greater than the ripe time value,  
13 otherwise the [seller] asker's contract is processed in a cash market.

1 125. A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a  
2 computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

3 receiving instructions for receiving an ask order from [a seller] an asker for [a seller]  
4 an asker's service contract;  
5 receiving instructions for receiving a bid order from a [buyer] bidder for a [buyer]  
6 bidder's contract;  
7 matching instructions for matching the bid order with the ask order;  
8 transferring instructions for transferring funds from the [buyer] bidder to the [seller]  
9 asker in response to matching the bid order with the ask order; and  
10 transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the [seller] asker's service  
11 contract to the [buyer] bidder in response to transferring funds from the [buyer] bidder to the  
12 [seller] asker.

1 126. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 125 above, wherein the [buyer] bidder is the first [buyer] bidder, the bid order is the  
3 first bid order, the ask order is the first ask order, the [buyer] bidder's contract is a first  
4 [buyer] bidder's contract and the computer program product further comprises:  
5 receiving instructions for receiving a second ask order from the [buyer] bidder for the  
6 [seller] asker's service contract;  
7 receiving instructions for receiving a second bid order from a second [buyer] bidder  
8 for a second [buyer] bidder's contract;  
9 matching instructions for matching the second bid order bid order with the second ask  
10 order;  
11 transferring instructions for transferring funds from the second [buyer] bidder to the  
12 first [buyer] bidder in response to matching the second bid order with the second ask order;  
13 and  
14 transferring instructions for transferring ownership of the [seller] asker's service  
15 contract to the second [buyer] bidder in response to transferring funds from the second  
16 [buyer] bidder to the [buyer] bidder.

1 127. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 126 above, wherein the receiving instructions for receiving an ask order and receiving a  
3 bid order further comprise electronically telecommunicating the respective bid and ask orders.

1       130. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2       claim 126 above, wherein the matching instructions for matching the bid order with the ask  
3       order is performed electronically.

1       131. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2       claim 126 above, wherein the receiving instructions for receiving an ask order from **[a seller]**  
3       **an asker** is performed electronically by **[a seller]** **an asker**'s authorized intermediary and  
4       further wherein matching the bid order with the ask order is performed orally using open  
5       outcry oral bargaining.

1       132. A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a  
2       computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:  
3               transmitting instructions for transmitting an ask order for **[a seller]** **an asker**'s service  
4       contract, wherein the ask order identifies **[a seller]** **an asker**'s service contract by at least one  
5       of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and further  
6       wherein the ask order includes and ask price;  
7               receiving instructions for receiving an indication that a bid price associated with a bid  
8       order from a **[buyer]** **bidder** has matched the ask price; and  
9               receiving instructions for receiving sales funds for ownership of the **[seller]** **asker**'s  
10      service contract, wherein the sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price.

1       133. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2       claim 132 above, wherein the **[seller]** **asker**'s service contract is a transferable instrument  
3       promising to provide a service at a future service delivery date and remote service delivery  
4       point.

1       135. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2       claim 132 above, further comprising:  
3               receiving instructions for receiving information as to an identity of the **[buyer]** **bidder**;  
4               receiving instructions for receiving a demand for service from a demander;

5 identifying instructions for identifying the demander;  
6 confirming instructions for confirming the demander's identity matches the identity of  
7 the **[buyer] bidder**; and  
8 performing instructions for performing a service for the demander.

1 136. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 133 above, further comprising:

3 receiving instructions for receiving notification of an issuance of **[a seller] an asker's**  
4 service contract certificate of title, wherein the **[seller] asker**'s service contract certificate of  
5 title is one of a transferable instrument and a nontransferable instrument;

6 *Q* receiving instructions for receiving a demand for service from a demander, wherein the  
7 demander bears a certificate of title;

8 authenticating instructions for authenticating the certificate of title as the **[seller]**  
9 **asker**'s service contract certificate of title; and

10 performing instructions for performing a service for the demander.

1 137. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 133 above, further comprising:

3 generating instructions for generating a second bid order for seller's service contract  
4 owned by the **[buyer] bidder**, wherein the second bid order includes a second bid price;

5 receiving instructions for receiving a notification the second bid order matched an ask  
6 order for the **[seller] asker**'s service contract; and

7 making instructions for making available second sales funds for ownership of the  
8 **[seller] asker**'s service contract, wherein the second sales funds are equal in amount to a  
9 second ask price.

1 138. A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a  
2 computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

3 contracting instructions for contracting for a secondary service from a secondary  
4 service provider;

5 generating instructions for generating an ask order, wherein the ask order is for [a  
6 seller] an asker's service contract and further wherein the ask order identifies [a seller] an  
7 asker's service contract by at least one of service quantity, service grade, service delivery date,  
8 and service delivery point and the ask order includes an ask price and a royalty fee amount;

9 receiving instructions for receiving an indication that a bid price associated with a bid  
10 order from a [buyer] bidder has matched the ask price; and

11 receiving instructions for receiving sales funds for ownership of the [seller] asker's  
12 service contract, wherein the sales funds are equal in amount to the ask price less the royalty  
13 fee.

1 139. A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a  
2 computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

3  transmitting instructions for transmitting a bid order for a [buyer] bidder's service  
4 contract, wherein the bid order identifies a [buyer] bidder's service contract by at least one of  
5 service quantity, service grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and further  
6 wherein the bid order includes a bid price;

7 receiving instructions for receiving an indication that an ask price associated with an  
8 ask order for [a seller] an asker's service contract from [a seller] an asker has matched the  
9 bid price; and

10 transferring instructions for transferring funds for ownership of the [seller] asker's  
11 service contract, wherein the funds are equal in amount to the bid price.

1 140. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 139 above, further comprising:

3 receiving instructions for receiving an indication of ownership of the [seller] asker's  
4 service contract.

1 141. The computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium recited in  
2 claim 139 above, further comprising:

3 receiving instructions for receiving a certificate of title for the [seller] asker's service  
4 contract, wherein the [seller] asker's service contract certificate of title is one of a transferable

5 instrument entitling a bearer of the certificate of title to the [seller] asker's service upon  
6 demand.

1 142. A data processing system implemented computer program product embodied on a  
2 computer readable medium for implementing a service contract futures exchange, comprising:

3                   transmitting instructions for transmitting a conjunctive bid order, wherein the  
4                   conjunctive bid order identifies at least two dissimilar service contracts to form the conjunctive  
5                   service and further each service contract identifies at least one of service quantity, service  
6                   grade, service delivery date, and service delivery point and further wherein the conjunctive bid  
7                   order includes a conjunctive bid price comprising a separate bid price for each service contract;

8                   receiving instructions for receiving an indication that a first ask price associated with a  
9                   first ask order for a first seller's service contract from a first seller has matched one bid price  
10                  from the conjunctive order;

11                  receiving instructions for receiving an indication that a last ask price associated with a  
12                  last ask order for a last seller's service contract from a last seller has matched a last bid price  
13                  from the conjunctive order, thereby completely matching the conjunctive bid order; and

14                  transferring instructions for transferring funds for ownership of the first seller's service  
15                  contract and the last seller's service contract, wherein the funds are equal in amount to the  
16                  conjunctive bid price.